



ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

April 21 to May 12, 2003



NIBIN Branch, Firearms Programs Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

Week of 5/12: Thanks to NIBIN, Cleveland, Ohio police discovered a link between an armed robbery-shooting incident and a murder five days later. In the first incident, an armed gunman robbed three people as they entered a residence, shooting one of them. At the scene, police recovered three cartridge casings, and witnesses provided a general description of the gunman. Five days later, a fatal shooting took place on a street in Cleveland. Police recovered three cartridge casings at the scene and submitted them for IBIS entry; an eyewitness identified the shooter. NIBIN alerted firearms examiners to the potential link between the cases; examiners compared the original evidence, and confirmed that the same gun was used in both shootings. The ballistic evidence enabled investigators to link the shooter in the murder to the armed robbery as well, and one suspect has been arrested and charged in both of the two incidents.

Week of 5/5: Thanks to NIBIN participation by the Virginia Department of Forensic Science's Fairfax laboratory, two Northern Virginia police departments have in sharing evidence to help solve a shooting. Manassas Police Department officers responded to the scene of an armed robbery, where a convenience store employee had been shot twice as he attempted to open the store's safe. The victim recognized the shooter as a previous customer of the store. Cartridge casings collected at the crime scene were entered into NIBIN. Two weeks later, a Prince William County Police Department officer stopped a car for a traffic violation. The driver was found to be driving under the influence and arrested. While searching the suspect's car during the arrest, the officer found and retained a .22 handgun. The weapon was testfired and entered into NIBIN at the Virginia Department of Forensic Science's Fairfax laboratory. NIBIN helped firearms examiners link this gun to the earlier armed robbery and shooting. Though the suspect in the concealed weapon case does not match the description of the shooter in the robbery, linking the recovered gun to the incident is an important investigative to assist in identifying the suspect.

Week of 4/28: A series of NIBIN hits at the Virginia Department of Forensic Science's Norfolk Laboratory has given the Newport News and Hampton Police Departments valuable information to use in a series of investigations. These hits confirmed that a pistol seized and testfired after a concealed weapon arrest was linked to three crimes taking place over the course of four months, including a homicide and two assaults. No other leads existed in some of the cases now linked through ballistic evidence; thanks to NIBIN, investigators can work together to solve additional firearms-related violent crime.

Week of 4/21: Just eleven days after a homicide in Los Angeles, California, NIBIN helped police make a quick identification of the gun used to commit the crime. In the first incident, a victim was shot multiple times as he stood on the sidewalk in front of a building. Witnesses provided a general description of the suspect, and the cartridge casings recovered at the scene were submitted for NIBIN entry at the Los Angeles Police Department's crime laboratory. Eleven days later, police officers stopped a vehicle with expired registration. As one of the car's occupants fled from the police, he dropped two weapons, a 9mm pistol and a .22 caliber pistol with the serial number obliterated. The recovered weapons were entered into NIBIN. After NIBIN correlation revealed a potential link, examiners compared the original evidence and confirmed that the recovered pistol had been used to commit the homicide. In order to locate the suspect and complete the case, investigators are continuing their inquiries.